

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy."

No. 28. NEW-HAVEN, DECEMBER 7, 1816.

VOL. I.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Extracts of Correspondence

Report of the Rev. Ebenezer Henderson, relative to his visit to Iceland, for the purpose of carrying into effect the Plans of the British and Foreign Bible Society in that Island.

Continued from p. 421.

Excepting the passage of the formidable river called Lokulsai Axarfirdi, where I providentially had a narrow escape from a watery grave, I encountered no difficulty of any moment in passing through the desert. On the morning of the 22d, I arrived at Hof, near Vopnafjord, where I met with the kindest reception from the Rev. A. Thorsteinson, Dean of North Mule Syssel, who is already known to the Society by his letter, inserted in the Ninth Report. Having read the letters of introduction which I delivered him, he could not contain his joy on learning the provision that had been made for Iceland, and broke out in expressions of gratitude to God, whose kind providence had paved the way for the bestowment of this blessing upon her. Some years ago he had received for distribution 200 copies of the New Testament, but they only went a little way in supplying the wants of the people, and he verily believed, judging from their state and disposition, that he could dispose of as many thousands in the course of a few months. The parish of Hof, contains upwards of four hundred souls, yet there is only one above six years of age that cannot read, and that individual is prevented by a natural infirmity. The longer I was in company with the Dean, and the wider scope we gave to the conversation, the more did we coalesce; and like the disciples of old, "our hearts burned within

us" while we talked of the wisdom and goodness displayed in the plan of the Divine Government; the excellence of the Christian Institution, and the pleasing prospects of the extension of the moral dominion of Jesus, which at present open on the view of the church. Excluded, by insurmountable local circumstances, from all information relative to the state of religion in other parts of the world, the accounts I had it in my power to communicate were as cold waters to a thirsty soul. The establishment and progress of Bible Societies, in particular, he could not but regard with a degree of reverence mingled with the most joyful admiration.

At Eskifjord, I was happy to find a considerable supply had arrived, and that Mr. Vidalin, brother to the Bishop, and sheriff of the district, was cordially disposed to do every thing that lay in his power for the promotion of the good cause. From this gentleman, as well as the other residents at the Factory, and the Rev. Mr. G. Paulson, of Holmar, I received many services: indeed, they scarcely knew how to find terms sufficiently strong to express their concurrence in the design of my mission.

Having spent too much of the 29th at the house of the excellent Mr. Paulson, I got benighted in a desert mountain tract, and, after wading and leading the horses a considerable way down the channel of a river, out of which I had the utmost difficulty in extricating myself, I pitched my tent in a morass on the right bank of the river, not daring to proceed any further in the dark. Next day I visited the Dean of South Mule Syssel, the Rev. Mr. Gisleson, who received me with much kindness, and repeatedly assured me, that his Deanery stood in great want of the Divine Oracles. The present supply he could view in no other

er light than that of the manna which came down from heaven.

On the 3d of September I reached Stafafel, a parsonage occupied by the Rev. Berg Magnussen, Dean of East Skaftafell Syssel, who had already been apprised of the new edition of the Scriptures, and waited with impatient anxiety for the arrival of copies in his district. He had been endeavouring to procure an Icelandic Bible for his own use these *seventeen* years past, but had, at last, given up all hopes of ever obtaining the treasure. His joy on receiving a copy from me was very great; and, previously to my departure, he wrote a circular epistle to his Clergy, communicating to them the joyful intelligence, and directing them what measures to adopt, in order to ascertain the real wants of their parishoners.

During the following ten days I was shut up within a narrow space, sometimes only half a mile in breadth, bounded on the left by the ocean, and on the right by an immense chain of ice mountains, from which numerous sub-divisions project towards the coast, and pour from their interior several very formidable rivers, which render travelling in this quarter a matter of no small difficulty and danger; as there is neither ferry nor bridge over them; the only practicable mode of passing them being on horseback. The accounts, I had heard of these rivers, and the terrible aspect they presented on my approaching them, were, certainly, in a high degree, calculated to intimidate the mind: but if Pompey could say, when dissuaded by his friends from putting to sea in a storm, in order to procure provisions for the army: "It is necessary that I should go, but it is not necessary that I should live," much more was I called upon to arm my mind with the same resolution, in order to provide perishing sinners with the means of life and salvation. My confidence was in the faithfulness of Him who hath promised; "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow

thee:" and, blessed be his name, he caused me to experience the fulfilment of his promise in a very wonderful manner. One evening my servant and all my baggage-horses were swept a long way down by the fury of one of these rivers, and I was obliged to spend the night alone under an inclement sky: but the Lord was with me; and in the multitude of thoughts within me his comforts delighted my soul.

Wherever I came the people received me with open arms, and complained sadly of the dearth of the Scriptures. In the parish of Kalfafell, which contains seventy souls, I found only one Bible, besides that belonging to the Church; and, what is remarkable, in the parish of Thyckvabæ Abbey, where, about the middle of the thirteenth century, the first attempt was made to translate the Scriptures into the vernacular language, not a single copy was found to exist at the present day! I had here an opportunity of visiting several Clergymen, who all promised their assistance in promoting the circulation of the Scriptures.

On my arrival at Odde I received a cordial welcome from the Rev. Steingrim Jonson, Dean of Rangarvalla Syssel, who, I was happy to find, had already, in expectation of my visiting him, matured a plan for the proper distribution of the Holy Scriptures among the parishes committed to his care. The total population is about 4,000, yet few families were in possession of Bibles; and the Dean assured me, that not more than half of them were able to purchase copies. In consequence of subsequent arrangements with Mr. Jonson, I placed at his disposal 229 Bibles, and 421 New Testaments, for gratuitous distribution within his district.

As the Dean of the neighbouring Syssel lived at some distance to the north-west of Mount Hecla, and the rainy season had set in, I was under the necessity of abandoning my purpose of visiting him. From the returns made by the Clergy, it was evident the most severe famine of th-

Word of God prevailed in the district: in proof of which one instance deserves to be mentioned; that in a certain quarter of the Syssel, not more than *one* copy of the Bible was found to exist among the inhabitants of *three* parishes! A supply of New Testaments having come to the Factory of Eyrarbacka, I ordered 100 copies to be distributed gratis by the Sysselmand among the poorest in the vicinity; and have since been favoured with a letter of thanks, a translation of which shall accompany this Report.

After an absence of about two months, during which time I had travelled upwards of 1200 British miles, I arrived again at Reykiavik on the 20th of September, with a heart full of gratitude to the God of my life for the rich experience I had had of his providential mercy, and the facilities he had afforded me in the way of ascertaining and making provision for the scriptural wants of more than one half of the population of this extensive island. It is painful to reflect, that many of them would still be destitute of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge during the winter: yet, on the other hand, it gave me much joy to think that my journey had put several hundreds in possession of them; that they would be read and listened to in family circles in which they had never before appeared; and that effectual steps were taking to secure a proper distribution the ensuing year.

PART II.

Having been convinced from the experience I gained on my travels last year, that nothing contributed so much either to excite an interest on behalf of the Scriptures in general, or to prepare the way for their speedy and proportionate distribution, as a personal visit, I determined to proceed along the coasts of the grand Western promontory, and the Friths of the Peninsula, in order to give their inhabitants the same advantages which those in the other quarters of the island had enjoyed.

I accordingly left Reykiavik on the 16th of May, completely tired of the

inactivity of an Icelandic winter, though all my friends in that place endeavoured to persuade me that I set off a month too early. The first person of importance I visited was the Deputy Governor of the west of Iceland, whose acquaintance I had formed the preceeding autumn. This Gentleman, in consequence of a letter I addressed to him at the time referred to, had, in the course of the winter, written an official communication to all the Sheriffs and Deans within his province, acquainting them with the provision that had been made for supplying the island with the Word of God, and directing them to be ready with their investigation of the state of their respective charges by the time I should travel that way. He now received me in the most polite and affectionate manner; and, on my leaving his house, I received an earnest of the attention that was to be shewn me in passing through his government; for he accompanied me himself, together with one of his sons, the Sheriff and his own Clergyman, all the way to Stafholt, the abode of the Very Rev. P. Peterson, Dean of Myre Syssel. On their return home the Dean entered into a most lively and interesting conversation with me relative to the Icelandic Scriptures, Bible Societies, the present state of religion, &c.: when he produced the letters received from his Clergy respecting the wants of their parishoners, the perusal of which convinced me of the vehement desire manifested by the people to obtain copies, while I as evidently saw that a great number must remain destitute of them, if they did not receive them on the same terms on which the blessings contained in them are offered; "Without money, and without price." I therefore authorised him, and the Sysselmand, after making up the full list from the returns, to send to Reykiavik for the quantity requisite for gratuitous distribution, and requested him to direct the purchasers also to that place, as the nearest sea-port.

On the 19th, I proceeded, in company with the Dean and his eldest son

across the mountains of western Skardshedi, where we encountered a rugged volcanic tract, and rode between several of the craters, from which the fire has played on the surrounding regions. Having, after much fatigue, crossed a stream of lava that has proceeded from a volcano still further west, we arrived in the evening at the Church of Stadarhraum, and instantly took shelter from the cold: the mercury in Fahrenheit's Thermometer having fallen to 29 degrees. The Clergyman I found to be a true Nathaniel, and could not but admire the primitive simplicity and godly sincerity that shone through the whole of his deportment. He has the charge of two small parishes, in one of which only *two* copies of the Bible existed among *fourteen* families. The following day we all rode on to Hitardale, where we were kindly entertained by the Clergyman, who, with all the company, took the most lively interest in the accounts I gave them of the progress of true religion, and the triumphs of Revelation over the pride and enmity of the abettors of infidelity.

I then visited the Clergymen of Hitarness, who expressed in very lively terms their gratitude for the good deed done to their parishoners. The Rev. G. Jonson, had distributed twenty copies of the New Testament of 1807 in his parish: but as to copies of the entire Scriptures, he did not believe there were upwards of three or four among a population of nearly four hundred souls. It gave him great joy to learn, that an adequate supply might now be expected.

On my progress along the north side of the mountains, I fell in with the Dean of the Syssel, proceeding on a visitation, who could not sufficiently regret my not having found him at home. I was happy to find in him a truly serious and pious man, to whom the news of the universal dissemination of the Scriptures proved a most reviving cordial. He exultingly resolved the event into some grand scheme of Providence, the full developement of which was reserved,

perhaps, for the astonishment of ages yet to come.

Having visited the Factories of Olafsvik, Grundarfjord, and Sticks-holm, and made the necessary arrangements at each, I proceeded into Dale Syssel, which I found equally destitute of the Scriptures with the other parts of the island. Though the greatest discrimination had been used by the Dean and Sheriff, in making out the lists of the poor, the number of those whom it would be necessary to supply gratis very much exceeded their expectation; and they were no less surprised than gratified, on finding that I allowed them the full complement, and that *all* the poor would be enriched with the Gospel of the Grace of God.

It was now my intention to have rode through the Syssel of Bardast-rand, but though it was the beginning of June, the mountain-roads were still impassible, owing to the immense quantities of snow and ice with which they were covered. I was therefore obliged to leave my horses, and the most of my baggage, on the western boundary of Dale Syssel, and proceed by sea. The first place I landed at was the island of Flatey, whither a considerable number of Bibles and New Testaments had been forwarded the preceding year. The Clergyman of Flatey shed tears of joy when he told me, that now *all* his parishoners were in possession either of a Bible or a New Testament.

Returning to the place in Dale Syssel, where I had left my horses, I got a farmer to conduct me across the mountains to the opposite side of the Peninsula, where I advanced as far as Stad, in Steingrimsfjord the residence of the Rev. H. Jonson. In this Clergyman it gave me great pleasure to find the consistent Christian, and the zealous and indefatigable Minister. He entered with his whole soul into the Bible-plan, and hailed the present gift of God as ushering in the dawn of a glorious day for the Icelandic church.

By the divine blessing, I was brought

back again in safety to Reykiavik, on the 29th of June, Just in time for the summer-market. Both Clergy and people began to flock in from different quarters; and, as it was a primary duty to see the poor supplied with the true riches, I was happy in prevailing on most of the Clergy to convey the copies intended for gratuitous distribution, free of all expense, to their respective parishes. For the sake of convenience, copies were placed in the shops for sale, and a considerable number purchased, both here and at the neighbouring harbour of Hafnarfiord.

"On the 10th of July, 1815, a meeting was held at Reykiavik, for the purpose of establishing a Bible Society for this island, on the same principles with similar Institutions in different parts of the world: when it was resolved, that such a Society be formed, having for its grand object to provide against any future want of Bibles in the vernacular language, and to promote their circulation throughout the country, according as circumstances may require.

Thus, in the good providence of God, the preliminary steps were taken for the establishment of an Institution, which, by his blessing, may perpetuate the treasures of Revelation to numerous Icelandic generations yet unborn. The young tree is planted, indeed, in rather an unpromising soil, and must be exposed to the vicissitudes of an unstable and refractory climate: yet, fostered by the care, and watered with the dews, of heaven, it will grow and prosper, till its branches extend to every corner of the island, and all the inhabitants may put forth their hands, and take of the fruit thereof, and eat, and live for ever.

4055 Bibles, and 6634 Testaments have been shipped from Copenhagen, to different parts of the island.

The greater number of these copies were brought into actual circulation previously to my quitting Iceland; and I make no doubt, that, owing to the laudable zeal displayed by the Sheriffs, Deans, and others, as well as

the uncommon desire manifested by the inhabitants to obtain copies, the remainder will all be distributed this autumn.

It must prove in a high degree gratifying to the Committee, and all the friends of the Society, to learn, that to no quarter of the globe could their exertions have been directed with a greater probability of success, as the Icelanders were evidently prepared by the Divine Spirit for the reception of his blessed word; and I can assure the Committee, from my own experience and observation, that their gift has been universally received with joy and gratitude, and is now perused with a conscientious diligence, in a great measure proportioned to its superlative value and importance. To no instance within the vast compass of your operations can the remark of the Apostle with more justice be applied: "The administration of this service not only supplyeth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God, (while, by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;) and by their prayer for you, which long after you, for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." 2 Cor. ix. 12—15.

On the 20th of August I embarked for Copenhagen, not without some feelings of regret, at leaving an island, on which I had spent some of the happiest months of my life; where I had acquired the affection of a kind and worthy people; and where I had been made the instrument of distributing among them that book which is able to make them wise to salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus! The same paternal hand that had conducted me in safety to Iceland, and protected me from numerous dangers, while there, was still extended to guard and support me on my returning voyage; and on the 6th of October I had again the pleasure of

entering the Danish metropolis in health and peace.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name: for he led me through fire and through water, and brought me to a wealthy place. To Him be the praise for ever. Amen."

EBENEZER HENDERSON.

Copenhagen, Oct. 16, 1815.

FROM THE SOUTH-SEA ISLANDS.

"Behold the Islands with their kings."

Translation of a letter from king Pomare, to the Missionaries, referred to in our last.

Maatea, 3d of July, 1815.

My dear friends,

MAY you be saved by Jesus Christ, the only Saviour by whom we can be saved. This is an account of our journey:—The ratiras (or chiefs) are inclined to hear and obey the word of God; the word of God is growing in Moorea (Eimeo,) Jehovah himself; He it is, that causeth the growth of his own word; for that reason it prospers; it grows exceedingly!

Many there are now, that lay hold on the word of God; there are thirty-four or thirty-six in Atimaha of this description. There are others of the common people that are left; they pay no attention to these things: but the ratiras, they all regard the word of God. As for Maatea, they all hear—the ratiras and common people—all of them have embraced the word of God; ninety-six new ones are of this description.

Not many of Haumi have as yet regarded the word of God; but Hamuna has. Hamuna is a man of knowledge; he has been hitherto a priest of the Evil Spirit (*i. e.* an idol priest,) he has entirely cast away the customs of the Evil Spirit. I am highly pleased with these things; and particularly that the ratiras attend so well to the word of God. This was my business in this journey; it was to make known

them the word of God; and behold!

have listened unto it; they have

regarded it. Had it been otherwise, I should have been much grieved.

We shall not go from this place yet a while; we were to go this day to Haumi; but the ratiras detained us, saying, stay a little, that you may know that we have in truth hearkened to the word of God. To this I said, agreed; we shall not go till another Sabbath-day is over; then we shall proceed. They answered, that is well. The idols of these ratiras are committed to the fire, they are entirely destroyed.

To-morrow is our meeting for prayer; the commencement of the new month. Should these ratiras ask me to write down their names, how ought I to act? Shall I write them? Write your mind to me without delay, and give me instructions how to do. May you be blessed of God,

POMARE, King.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Marsden, senior Chaplain of New South Wales.

PARAMATTA, Oct. 2, 1815.

I received the goods mentioned in your letter for the Missionaries at Otaheite, which I will forward the very first opportunity. I should have sent the ACTIVE to visit them in September, had I not received your packet, by which I learned that your Society were about to send some assistance to the Brethren, who are much in want of aid, I therefore sent the ACTIVE to New Zealand, with orders to return as soon as possible; hoping that by the time she came back, the Missionaries would have arrived from Europe; and then I should forward them immediately to join the brethren.

I have this morning received accounts from Eimeo, with the afflicting news of the death of Mr. Scott, who was a very pious man, and a faithful, patient Missionary. His loss will be severely felt by the whole body, as he was a man so much esteemed by all who knew him.

The accounts I have received are very satisfactory, as far as the Mission

is concerned. They have sent me a spelling-book to get printed, and wish to have a thousand copies. I shall have it done immediately. No doubt they will give you every information relative to their wants, and what hope they entertain of success in their labours. I believe much good has been done, and that God has been with them in a very special manner.

There is war at Otaheite; but I think this will eventually turn out well. Pomare has no hand in the war, nor his people: he is on the island (Eimeo) with the Missionaries and many of his people, who have renounced idolatry, and turned to the living God. The Missionaries appear to be very contented, and still anxious to promote the conversion of the heathen. They are all tried men, and have proved themselves, by their patience, perseverance, and labours, worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the Society. I shall be happy when the Missionaries arrive to join them, as it will give them courage, and animate them in their work.

You will have heard by former letters, of the death of Mr. Shelley. He was very desirous of going to the Friendly Islands, where he had resided three years, and begun the work of the Mission: but death has ended all his labours.

Extract of another letter from the Rev. Mr. Marsden, dated Nov. 7, 1815.

Since I closed my letter of Oct. 2, I have received more particular accounts from the Missionaries. I rejoice exceedingly that their labours are at length crowned with such wonderful success. Nothing can be more gratifying to the religious world in general; but more particularly to us on this side of the globe. They have their way now plainly opened. The natives in the Society Islands have literally "cast their gods into the fire, for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone." I am anxiously looking for more Missionaries. The harvest in these islands is truly plenteous, but the labour-

ers are few. I think there will be little idolatry remaining, in a short time, in these islands, so many believe the word, and are turned to the Lord. I am persuaded more is effected than was ever imagined by the warmest advocate of the Mission, in this limited time. What is twenty years for so great a work! the glory of the Lord has now risen upon these heathen; they begin to see his salvation. Pomare writes like an apostle. His heart appears to be deeply engaged in the work, and he is a true friend to the cause.

This Mission had many enemies, and the character of the Missionaries was much traduced; but their adversaries must now be silent, for the Lord hath been on their side, and hath done great things for them.

The natives have now private prayer Meetings in different places, and they instruct one another where there is no Missionary. I think the work of conversion is so real and deep, that the gospel would spread among the natives, even if there were no Europeans with them. But I trust the Society will send out some pious men and women with all possible speed, to assist them. Mr. William Campbell, who commands a vessel from Port Jackson, has just returned from the Society Islands, and tells me they earnestly desire that Missionaries may be sent among them in all directions.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT

Of the Prudential Committee, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Concluded from p. 429.

It is an interesting fact that several youths brought from the Sandwich Isles, are now resident in this country. Four of them having for a considerable time engaged the attention of liberal and active friends of missions, have by them been recommended to the notice of your Committee; and

the Committee have thought it right to receive them under the patronage of this board, to educate with a view to their being sent back in due time to their own native Isles, qualified to be employed as preachers or teachers to their native countrymen. These four youths, by the grace of God accompanying the means which have been used with them, have renounced their heathenism, appear to have been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ, commend themselves to all around them as engaged and exemplary Christians, and testify a deep concern for their idolatrous parents, and brethren, and people, and an ardent desire to be instruments of imparting to them the blessings of the Gospel. Their faculties are vigorous; their proficiency in their studies is good; and the promise which they give of future usefulness is highly encouraging. Another, a son of a king in one of the Islands, has lately come to the knowledge of the Committee, and measures are taken to obtain his discharge from the naval service of the United States, that he may be placed under advantages similar to those which his four countrymen enjoy. Your Committee cannot but gratefully recognize the hand of God in bringing these lately pagan youths to our shores, placing them within the influence of Christian benevolence, inclining their hearts to the Gospel, and producing in them the desire of making known the unspeakable grace to their countrymen. It is an intimation which deserves attention, and may lead to very important events; and it is submitted to the wisdom of the Board to determine upon a plan to be adopted for the education, not only of the youth already under our care, but of such others from heathen lands, as Providence from time to time may offer to our patronage and direction.

The Committee feel a great pleasure in acknowledging the continued and liberal benefactions, which have been received the year past from numerous auxiliary societies, and individuals. More than ten thousand and

eight hundred dollars have been paid into the Treasury, within the time just mentioned, beside the legacy of the late Mrs. Norris, which is now in a productive state. The particulars of all donations to the Board have already been published, and the summaries will appear in the Treasurer's annual statements. The Committee are deeply impressed with a sense of their responsibility, as almoners of that bounty, which Christian benevolence has placed at their disposal, to be expended in promoting the salvation of the heathen world.

While the smiles of Divine Providence on this infant institution, and the fruits of Divine Grace in the contributions to our treasury, are to be devoutly and thankfully recognized, the impression cannot be too deep upon this Board, nor upon the Christian public, that all that has yet been done is only a small beginning in a long neglected work, of immense extent and importance. Long has the Infidel reproached Christianity on account of the narrow limits within which it has been confined. The reproach belongs neither to our holy religion nor to its adorable Author. Christianity is adapted in its nature, its institutions, its whole design, to the condition and necessities, to the relations and interests, temporal and eternal, of all mankind: and from the day of our Lord's ascension, his momentous edict has been in force, and binding upon Christians in every age and in every place. *Go ye and make disciples of all nations:—Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.*—This command has not been fulfilled. Eighteen centuries have passed away, and three fourths of the inhabitants of the earth are yet without the Gospel! It is a reproachful, an awful fact. For this large portion of mankind, amounting by estimation to six hundred millions, the whole of Christendom at this day, after the powerful excitements of the last twenty years, supplies only about two hundred missionaries:—only one preacher of the Gospel to three mil-

ions of souls, dwelling in darkness and the shadow of death. Were portions of the unevangelized people of the world to be assigned to the several Protestant Christian nations, according to their numbers and their means for supplying missionaries, not less than one hundred millions would fall to the share of our own nation. For these we now employ nine or ten missionaries; not more than one to ten millions of souls! Is it time then to slacken our hands,—to relax our exertions,—to caution those who are coming forward with their liberalities lest they do too much for this object? How then shall we answer for that hundred millions of souls to Him who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, and who is calling upon us with all the energy of his love, and all the majesty of his authority, to impart the Gospel of his salvation to them! The vast magnitude of the work of promulgating the Gospel in every region of the heathen world, and the pressing duty, which lies with such accumulated weight upon Christian nations, might almost overwhelm with despondency, instead of stimulating to exertion. But it can be shown, with unanswerable conclusiveness, that the energies of Christendom, if wisely directed, and accompanied with a divine blessing, would be amply sufficient to send the Gospel into every dark corner of the earth, and supply a competent number of faithful preachers, within the short period of a quarter of a century. Let the friends of missions take courage; let them arise with one heart and a steadfast purpose, and apply themselves to the great enterprize before them; and let each one resolve for himself, whatever others may do, that he will not forget the heathen, while he has hands to labour, a tongue to plead, or a heart to pray.

In behalf of the Prudential Committee.

SAMUEL WORCESTER, *Clerk.*
Hartford, Sept. 18, 1816.

Annual meeting of the Missionary Society of Berkshire and Columbia.

On Tuesday September 17th, 1816, the nineteenth annual meeting of the Missionary Society of Berkshire and Columbia, was holden at Chatham, (N. Y.) according to appointment. A Sermon was delivered on the occasion, and divine service performed, by the Rev. James Bradford of Sheffield.

From this report, it appears, that the Trustees have received returns of eighty-four weeks of missionary service actually performed. Returns of four weeks of missionary service, already appointed, have not been received. Missionaries in the service of the Society, are paid eight dollars a week. The amount of monies received into the Treasury the past year is \$1016 19—and of the sum paid out by order of the Trustees, is \$1060 24. Balance remaining in the Treasury, 1169.

Officers of the Society for the present year.

Rev. DAVID PORTER, D. D. President.

Rev. JACOB CATLIN, Vice-President.

Rev. SAMUEL SHEPARD, Secretary.

Col. HENRY BROWN, Treasurer.

Rev. JOSEPH L. MILLS, Clerk.

JOSEPH WOODBRIDGE, Esq. Auditor.

Trustees.—Rev. Beriah Hotchkiss, Hon. William Walker, Rev. Alvan Hyde, D. D. Hon. Thomas B. Cook, John Whiting, Esq. Rev. Jonathan Nash, Rev. Gordon Dorrance, Rev. Ebenezer Jennings, Rev. Joel T. Benedict, Rev. Azariah Clark. and James W. Robbins, Esq.

Committee of missions.—Rev. Samuel Shepard, James W. Robbins, Esq. and Col. Henry Brown.

The next annual meeting of the Society will be holden at Catskill, (N. Y.) on the third Tuesday in September, 1817, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Rev. Thomas Punderson is appointed to preach at the next meeting of the Society; and, in case of his failure, the Rev. Ebenezer Jennings.

The business of the meeting was closed with prayer by the Vice-President.

SAMUEL SHEPARD, Secretary.

The following are extracts from communications made to the Society.

"I received," says Mr. Pool, "many thanks to the Missionary Society, for their benevolent exertions to supply the destitute with religious instruction.—I think that the state of religion is improving in the western country. Missionary and charitable Societies are instituted in several places. In some settlements, arrangements are made for the building of houses of public worship. Ministers of the gospel are greatly needed in that region. The fields of labour are very extensive, and, wherever I went, I met with a welcome reception.

"I cannot close my journal," says Mr. Comstock "without bearing testimony to the goodness of God. He has been doing wonders in the County of Essex. The change which has taken place in the two settlements in Keene is astonishing. In one settlement, there was, a year ago, but one praying man. There are now eight praying heads of families, out of twenty-five; and religious meetings are holden on the Sabbath. It is due to this Missionary Society to state, that in one town, the people have had no preaching for two years, but by their favour. There is a revival of religion in Lewis, Jay, Elizabeth-Town, Westport, and Brookfield, and through the whole northern part of this county, there is an unusual attention to the preaching of the word. Never before was there so great a call for missionary labour, and never was there so great a prospect of its being useful. In both settlements in Keene, in Westport, Brookfield, Chesterfield, and Jay, the people have raised money by subscription, to obtain preaching every fourth Sabbath, and their earnest solicitations, are—"come and help us." It is thought, that there never was a time when Bibles could be distributed to so good advantage in this region, as at the present. The minds of the peo-

ple are, in a good measure, prepared to read and make a good improvement of them. The establishment of a Bible Society, on the plan proposed, will be of vast importance. The people here live in a cold and inhospitable region. A majority of them are indigent. They who are able will give, and do it freely. They cannot, however, raise much money. They will need help from other Bible Societies. May God, of his infinite mercy, prosper their exertions and dispose the benevolent to assist in the accomplishment of so important an object."

From Mr. Comstock's journal—
"Tuesday, March 12th, attended a lecture which was appointed for the afternoon. I had but just entered the school-house, when a young man, aged 25, came in with a very depressed countenance. He soon began to talk to admiration. His father, a member of the Church, had lately gone to reside in another town, but had come to this place on a visit. For several weeks, he had felt great anxiety for the salvation of this his only son, and for the prosperity of the church. His prayers seemed to be heard and his conversation blessed. The young man had such discoveries of the goodness, and long-suffering, and patience of God, and of his own gratitude and ill-desert, as were almost insupportable. When the 25th Hymn of the 2nd Book was sung, his impressions were such, that for fear of disturbing others, he left the room. The father followed, and persuaded him to return; but he was in an agony. He could not walk without help. As soon as he entered the room, the singing closed, and he began to speak. He spake, at first, with some difficulty; but soon did his ideas flow like a torrent. I thought I never before saw a person appear to be so deeply impressed. He confessed his sins, begged pardon of God, of the whole audience, especially of the youth. He requested an interest in the prayers of God's people, and declared that he had rather be taken out of the world, than live as he had done. He once entertained

a christian hope; but the vanities of the world had carried him away like a flood. When he came in, I had my bible open where my text was; but, after hearing his conversation, I concluded that it would be best to spend the remainder of the time in prayer. Several prayers were made, and I trust, heard. It was a most solemn and melting time."

"Friday April 26th. Attended a church meeting. In the evening, conversed with a child eleven years old. She gave striking evidence of piety.—
 Quest. When do you feel the happiest?
 Ans. When praying. Q. By yourself or with your young companions? A. By myself. Q. What do you pray for? A. For myself, my parents, my brothers and sisters, and young companions, and, sometimes for the wicked. Q. Do you ever pray for ministers? A. O! yes, I *often* pray for them; and sometimes for the heathens. Q. What do you ask for them? A. That they may turn from their idols to the living God and serve *Him*. Q. When reading the bible, do you find any one part to touch your feelings and to affect your mind, more than others? A. O yes. Q. Do you now recollect any such part? A. Yes; when I am reading concerning the sufferings of Christ. Q. What effect does this have upon you? A. It makes me sorry I have ever sinned, and I then think I never will sin against him any more.—This she said with great simplicity, and warmth of affection."

Extracts from letters addressed to the Trustees, by the people in different places, where their missionaries have laboured.

"Essex, July 20th, 1816. Through the goodness of God we have been favoured with a portion of the labours of the Rev. Cyrus Comstock, which have proved of great utility to us. There has been the greatest moral reformation in this place that I ever knew in any part of the world. There have been many remarkable instances of piety, which fill the heart of every true believer with joy and thanksgiving to God, for his love and tender

compassion towards a guilty world. We feel the greatest obligation to your society for the favour you have been pleased to confer upon us, by sending such a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, to preach the everlasting gospel to perishing sinners in this benighted region. We entreat you, if consistent, to grant us further help. We ask an interest in your prayers at the throne of grace, in behalf of the people in this part of our land."

"Keene, July 27th, 1816. God, in his providence, having disposed the Missionary Society of Berkshire and Columbia to send missionaries into this part of the land, which for a number of years had been in a great measure destitute of a preached gospel, and where there were but here and there *one* who offered the morning and evening sacrifice, where almost all kinds of wickedness abounded, and where the few who were the professed friends of God appeared to be asleep, he has in mercy blessed the preaching of his word; churches have been gathered; careless sinners have been convicted, and we hope, many of them have become the subjects of renewing grace.

"Under these circumstances we earnestly solicit the attention of the Missionary Society still. We feel ourselves under peculiar obligations to the Missionary Society for their attention to us, and beseech the great Head of the Church to bless their exertions and crown their endeavours with success, and that he would pour out his Spirit on all parts of our land, bless Bible societies, and missionary societies, and fill the earth with his glory."

Elizabeth Town, July 28th, 1816. It is abundantly evident that the Spirit of God is now striving with this people. The fields are white already to harvest, and the labourers are few; therefore we pray you to be so kind as to send us a Missionary. The first Sabbath in this month was a solemn day; such as was never known here before. The wilderness here begins to bud and blossom as the rose, and

these solitary places have become vocal with the praises of our God."

Westport, July 30th, 1816. We return you our sincere thanks for the regard you have manifested to the destitute people of this region, by sending your Missionaries among us from time to time; especially the Rev. Mr. Comstock. We are confident that it will gladden your hearts to hear that God has blessed his labours. It is evident that God has blessed his preaching in this country; especially in this town.

"May we unite together and praise God for all the mighty works he has done, and is now doing in this our dying world. *Brethren pray for us.*"

FOR THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

"Who hath despised the day of small things?"

The prospects as they respect religion, have greatly brightened in Hadlyme, (the 3d society in East Haddam.) within the last three years. A long night of darkness had hung over this place.

The professors of religion had been cold and formal in general, and there had been but few instances of hopeful conversion, even from the first formation of the church, which is now upwards of sixty years. Though there was something of a revival, of God's work in this place, in the year 1808; in consequence of which, sixteen were added to the church. But the number of its members was reduced to about thirty-eight; but seven or eight of which were males, in the year 1815, when it pleased God to visit this small place with the influence of his blessed Spirit. The work was gradual—it was still and solemn—but few instances of very sudden and great alarm; but it issued in the hopeful conversion of a goodly number. Not far from forty persons gained some evidence that they had experienced a change of

heart; nearly thirty of whom have been added to the Church.

There is indeed a surprising change in the moral state of the society, and though there is evidently a declension since the late revival; yet religious conferences, the monthly concert for prayer, and other prayer meetings, are well attended, by a considerable number of the young people in particular.

Our young converts appear to have, in some good measure, caught that spirit of philanthropy, which begins to pervade the Christian world.

Three Societies have been formed in this place; viz. a female praying and charitable Society, which has been of about two years standing. Two others have been recently formed; i. e. the Gentlemen's Religious Tract Society, and the Lady's Education Society, for the purpose of aiding pious indigent young men, in preparing for the ministry. This last has above forty members belonging to it. It is formed upon a liberal plan; that those young misses who are unable to afford pecuniary aid, may assist by their labour and industry; it is stated in one of their articles, that each one who shall pay something, or produce some article of her own manufacturing yearly, shall be constituted a member. At their annual meeting, each one is to bring forward her donation, and to deliver it to the Treasurer, which she is to appropriate to the object above mentioned, at the direction of the members.

At each annual meeting, some minister is to be requested to deliver a discourse adapted to the occasion.

At the organization of the above Society, after their pastor had

opened the meeting with prayer, he delivered the following address.

My female Christian friends,— You have assembled upon an occasion very serious and interesting. You are convened for the noble design of forming yourselves into a Society, for the benevolent purpose of aiding pious and indigent young men, in procuring a suitable education to go forth into the harvest of Christ, and to act as labourers in his vineyard, that they may help build up the waste places of Zion. And it is emphatically true at this present time, that the harvest is great, but the labourers are few.

“And let it be remembered that in this laudable undertaking, you are following the example of thousands of your sex in these States, who have formed themselves into religious associations, for pious and charitable purposes.

“The design of these charitable institutions, is not to exercise a fond partiality towards any particular young man of your connexion, or to raise any one from obscurity, to a respectable station in life; but their chief object is, the promotion of the great and glorious cause of Jesus Christ. At this you are to aim ultimately, without favour or affection for any person in particular.

“You should bear in mind, that you must act freely, and not by constraint. Not because it has become customary for persons of your sex to be thus liberal; not to be seen & applauded by your acquaintance; but solely to advance the glory of God, and the kingdom of the Redeemer.

“If you are governed wholly by selfish motives, even “though you should give all your goods to feed the poor, it will profit you nothing.”

“Be not discouraged by any opposition which may fall in your way. As such charitable institutions are novel, and tend to turn considerable sums of money into a new channel, they may be expected to become the objects of severe reproach, from many.

“This is not unusual, when new and uncommon exertions are made in this way, to promote the interest of the Redeemer, and the salvation of souls.

“Keep in mind, that if you act sincerely for the glory of God, you will be accepted and rewarded by Christ at the last day, though your offering should be but small.

“Lastly, you will bear in your memory, that none of you are required, even for the support of this important cause, to contribute such large sums, as will involve you in poverty and distress; but according to the ability which God hath given you.

“To conclude, my Christian friends, you will do well to consider, that in this, as well as your daily conduct, you are acting for eternity; and I trust, that if you are governed by Christian principles, none of you will regret the labour of love you have bestowed for the salvation of precious souls, when you shall be called to exchange worlds; and may you be much in prayer to God to succeed your attempts, to build up his kingdom, and at last be owned as his faithful servants, and welcomed to the joy of your Lord.

East-Haddam, Oct. 1816.

From the Recorder.

GEORGE PRINCE TAMOREE.

We have collected the following facts respecting this interesting young man. George is the son of Tamoree, King of Atooi, one of the Sandwich islands. When he was about seven

years old, his father committed him to the care of the Captain of an American ship, who agreed to bring him to America, to procure him an education, and to return him to his father. To defray the expenses of his education, Tamoree gave the Captain several thousand dollars.* After the vessel arrived in America, George went with the Captain to Worcester, where he remained at school, till the property was all expended, and shortly after the Captain died. He was then removed from one family and place to another in the neighbourhood of Worcester, till at length becoming dissatisfied with his situation, he came to Boston and enlisted in the Navy. The first vessel in which George served was the *Enterprize*. He was in this vessel in the action with the *Boxer*, in which he was badly wounded.—He was afterwards on board the *Guerriere*, in the action with the Algerine frigate. After the war ended, George was again thrown upon the world; and without any means of obtaining a livelihood, or any one to care for him, ragged, dirty, and in want, he was again enlisted, and employed as a servant to the Purser of the Navy-yard, in Charleston. In this situation the Rev. Dr. Morse, having obtained some knowledge of his history, procured his release, and took him under his protection to New-Haven, in Connecticut, at the time of the public commencement in Sept. last. Here he was received with the utmost kindness into the family of the Rev. President Dwight, and provided with clothes, and every thing that could render him contented and comfortable. At the meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions at Hartford, on the week after Commencement, George's case was brought before them, and they resolved to take him under their patronage, to give him such an education as shall qualify him for usefulness, and then to send him to his father. In pursuance of this resolution, George is now in Litch-

* George says the mate of the vessel told him 7 or 8,000.

field county, in Connecticut, in company with four others of his countrymen, all of whom are pursuing their studies in the school for heathen youth, recently established by the Board, and are expected to return in a few years, as missionaries or teachers to their native country.

George is represented to be of a mild and forgiving temper. In conducting the business with which he has been occasionally entrusted, he has discovered much intelligence, as well as the strictest honesty. And amid all the temptations with which he was surrounded, while a common sailor in the Navy, he never became addicted to any vice. For several days after his arrival in New-Haven, his countenance indicated a depression of spirits, reserve and distrust, to which in his former situation he had probably been accustomed. This appearance, however, gradually vanished, and he has now become frank and cheerful, and his conversation abounds not only with remarkable good sense but even with the finest wit. The following letter from George to his father will serve as a specimen of his composition. The original from which we copied it, is written in a plain, legible hand. It will be remembered that George is but seventeen years old. He has been in this country ten years.

To Kuumoorue, King of Atoway, one of the Sandwich islands.*

GUILFORD, CONN. (U. S. A.)

Oct. 19, 1816.

Hon. and Dear Father,—I have undertook to let you know how I have been treated since I left your habitation. I was neglected very much by the man you sent me with; after we came to America, the Capt. Rowin became very intemperate and exposed I with the property you sent with him for my education and I have had to shirk for myself; after I left you I came to Providence in America, and

* We have printed this name as it is spelt by George. We are assured, however, by respectable authority, that it should be spelt Tamoree or Tasmoree.

then I went to Boston in America and lived a year or two, and then I went to Worcester in the State of Massachusetts, in America, and there I lived with the Capt. Rowin about two years. I lived with him till he spent the property, and then he put me into the hands of Capt. Cotting, of Worcester, and then I went to Fitchburg, a town in the State of Massachusetts, and I lived with him till he became very poor, and then I thought I would seek for my own liveing rather than to live with him, and then I went to Boston and listed in the U. States servis, and I shipped on board the Brig Enterprize, in order to go and fight with the Englishmen. After I went on board I went to sea then, and I was about thirty days from land before we meet the enemies that we wear seeking after. We came to an Action in a few minutes after we hove in sight. We fought with her abought an hour, and in the mean time, I was wounded in my right side with a boarding pike, which it pained me very much. It was the blessing of God that I was kept from death. I ought to be thankful that I was preserved from Death. I am going to tell you more of my being in other parts of the world. I then was drafted on board the U. S. Ship Guerrier. I went then to the Streats of Mediterranean I had a very pleasant voyge up there, but was not there long before we fell in with the barbarous turks of Algiers. But we come to an action in a few minutes after we spied these people, we fought with them about three hours, and took them and brought them up to the city of Algiers, and then I came to Tripoly, and then I came to Naples, and from thence I came to Gibaralter, and then I came back to America. And now I am in a good way of getting a good education. But I want to see you very much. I hope I shall come and be with you the rest of my life, but if I dont see you in this world, I trust I shall see you in the world to come, and then wee shall speak face to face. I may come and be with thee but it will not be but a few days before I

shall come and be with thee. I hope I shall be a benefit to you. You must not expect yet a while, but if God spares my life I shall be there in a few yers.

I am your affectionate Son,
GEORGE PRINCE KUMMOORE.

In addition to the above, we are informed, that Capt. Davis, who was mate of the vessel which brought George to this country, came from Boston last week, with an intention of taking him back to his father. George went from Litchfield to Hartford, where he met Capt. Davis; but being unwilling to return before he had acquired an education, he declined the offer of a passage home. We understand Capt. Davis conducted very honourably in this business, and gave him 30 dollars. George wrote a long letter and sent several Bibles and some other articles to his father.

The New-York papers have made frequent mention of large contributions and individual subscriptions which have been received by the American Bible Society. In addition to those we have heretofore published, we now insert the following.

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| From the New-York Female Auxiliary Bible Society, | \$1000 |
| The Female Bible Society of Carlisle, Pa. | 140 |
| The Norfolk Bible Society, Va. | 300 |
| The Orange Auxiliary Bible Society, N. Y. | 100 |
| The Westchester Auxiliary Bible Society, N. Y. | 50 |
| Hon. John Langdon, of Portsmouth, N. H. | 460 |
| Robert Oliver, Esq. Baltimore, | 300 |
| Mrs. Anna Bancker, New-York, | 100 |
| Presbyterian Church of Princeton, in behalf of, and constituting the Rev. Wm. C. Schenck, their pastor, a director for life, | 30 |
| General Matthew Clarkson, New-York, | 150 |
| Orin Day, Esq. Catskill, | 150 |
| Archibald Gracie, Esq. N. York | 150 |
| Isaac Heyer, Esq. do, | 150 |
| Hon. John Jay, Westchester, | 150 |
| Joel Post, Esq. New-York, | 150 |
| Col. Henry Rutgers, do, | 150 |
| Col. Richard Varrick, do, | 150 |
| Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer, Albany, | 150 |
| The Presbyterian Congregation at East Bloomfield, Ontario County, N. Y. | 144 93 |
| Debating Society, do. | 7 |
| The Georgia Bible Society—donations | 500 |
| and to purchase Bibles, | 500 — 1000 |

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|--|--------|
| James Roosevelt, Esq. of N. York, | 100 |
| Collection in the city of N. York, | |
| from sundries : | |
| in the 4th Ward, | 333 99 |
| in the 10th do | 149 |
| in the 1st do | 752 |
| in the 3d Ward, | 176 75 |
| from the Burlington Fem. Aux. | |
| B. S. | 50 |
| from John Bolton, Esq. Georgia, | |
| 10 shares of stock in the Marine | |
| and Fire Insurance Company of | |
| Savannah, | 500 |
| the Beaufort Aux. B. S. (S. C.) | 100 |
| the Pittsburgh B. S. to purchase | |
| Bibles, | 300 40 |
| a devoted friend to the institution at | |
| Philadelphia, | 30 |
| the Long-Island B. S. (N. Y.) | 20 |
| the Aux. B. S. of Nassau-Hall, N. J. | 100 |

20 life subscriptions in the city of Albany and Schenectady (obtained by the Rev. Samuel J. Mills); from his Excellency John Cotton Smith, Governor of Connecticut, and Robert Ralston, Esq. of Philadelphia, each 150 dollars, which constitutes them Directors for life; from the Female Bible Society of Kingston, Ulster county, New-York, 30 dollars; from the Juvenile Female Bible Society of do, 10 dollars; from the Jersey Bible Society 500 dollars; from the Bible Society of Delaware, 250 dollars; a contribution at Hudson, 16 dollars 56 cents; from the Amity Female Auxiliary Bible Society in Orange county, New-York, 39 dollars 57 cents; from the Cumberland county Bible Society, New-Jersey, 50 dollars; from the Female Bible Society of Cortland county, New-York, 70 dollars; from the Rev. Platt Buffet, of Stanwich, Con. 10 dollars; from the Female Auxiliary Bible Society of Newark, by Miss Amelia M. Smith, their treasurer, 140 dollars; from the Rev. Edward Payson, of Portland, 30 dollars; from the New-Haven Female Bible Society, 160 dollars 12 cents; from James Buchanan, Esq. the British Consul, for himself, his lady and children, 30 dollars 50 cents; from John Murray, Jun. a member for life, constituting him a director for life, 120 dollars; from the Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, of Hadley, Mass. through some of his family, constituting him a member for life, 30 dollars; from the managers of the Auxiliary Bible Society of Virginia, by the Rev. Dr. Rice, 250 dollars; from the Bible Society of Staunton, Va. by Joseph Cowan, their treasurer, 200 dollars; from the Vermont Bible Society, by Jeduthan Loomis their treasurer, 200 dollars.

A Bible Society has been formed at Mount Holly, Burlington County, N. J. Auxiliary to the New-Jersey Bible Society.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Christian Herald, from Bristol, Eng.

Mr. Pinkerton has been in the Crimea to a large colony of Jews, where they have a college, with a Principal Rabbi, named Aaron, to whom he explained the object of his mission as an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He was received with open arms, and informed that they were anxious to receive the *Christian Scriptures*. He presented to them the Gospel of Matthew, and the Epistle to the Hebrews. They were astonished and delighted on reading them, devoting day and night thereto during his stay.

A real Fact.

Mr. S. said to Mr. N. (both infidels) "There is ONE THING which marrs all the pleasures of my life. "Ah!" says the other, "What is that?" "Why, I am afraid that the Bible is true! If I could know for certain, that *Death were an eternal sleep, I should be happy. —My joy would be complete!* But here is the thorn that stings me! this is the sword that pierces my very soul.—If the Bible is true, I AM LOST FOREVER. Every prospect is gone! *All is gone!* and I AM LOST FOREVER!!!

Mr. S. was just entering on a voyage—sailed not long after—was shipwrecked, and doubtless lost with all the horrors of an awakened conscience.

NOTICE.

The Editor would remind his patrons, that the payment for the first year of the Religious Intelligencer is now due. As he has been at great expense in commencing and carrying on the establishment for the first half year, without any remuneration, he hopes there will be no unnecessary delay in making remittances. The Editor is well convinced of the truth of the common saying, that the *times are hard*; and while he allows to each individual the full force of this plea, he feels the application of it to himself, in the ratio of a thousand to one.

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